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8. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of catalysed support incorporated into the membrane is such that the metal loading is lower than 0.1mg/cm^2.

9. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the amount of catalysed support incorporated into the membrane is such that the metal loading is lower than 0.05mg/cm^2.

10. (Amended) A process according to claim 9, wherein the amount of catalysed support incorporated into the membrane is such that the metal loading is lower than 0.03mg/cm^2.

11. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the high surface support material is non-electrically conducting.

12. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the high surface area support material is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, alumina, zirconium oxides, zirconium silicates, tungsten oxides, tin oxides and zeolites.

13. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is in the form of fibres.

14. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is in the form of particles with a mean particle size in the range of from 0.001μm to 10μm.

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16. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the ion-conducting polymer comprises an essentially aqueous solution of a perfluorinated co-polymer with ion-exchange groups.

17. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalysed support is in particle or fibre form and step (b) comprises directly adding the catalysed support to a solution of the ion-conducting polymer electrolyte.

18. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalysed support is in particle form and is applied as a binder to form a fibre

network to which the ion-conducting polymer is subsequently applied to produce the membrane.

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19. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalysed support is in fibre form and itself is formed into a fibre network which is thereafter bound with a binder, and the ion-conducting polymer is subsequently applied to produce the membrane.

20. (Amended) A membrane prepared by a process according to claim 1.

21. (Amended) A membrane electrode assembly comprising a membrane prepared by a process according to claim 1.

22. (Amended) A fuel cell comprising a membrane prepared by a process according to claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher R. Lewis, Reg. No. 36,201
Attorney for Applicants

CRL/lrb
Dated: April 16, 2001

Suite 301
One Westlakes, Berwyn
P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

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Solomon James